

To: DIAMOND, JANE[Diamond.Jane@epa.gov]
From: Blumenfeld, Jared
Sent: Fri 6/7/2013 6:55:05 PM
Subject: Re: CEQ call today re BDCP

Thanks for great summary (and for doing calls).

Jared Blumenfeld, EPA

From: DIAMOND, JANE
Sent: Friday, June 07, 2013 11:44:03 AM
To: Vendlinski, Tim; Hagler, Tom; Goforth, Kathleen; Herrera, Angeles; Skophammer, Stephanie; Kemmerer, John; Blumenfeld, Jared
Subject: CEQ call today re BDCP

There were a few people on the call that were hard to hear, but I think I got most of the salient points. Here are the highlights:

The Oct. 1 deadline for BDCP and DEIS is very important to the State and the public. Leading up to the first week of July deadline for comments during administrative review, lots of work will be needed to address the big science (and policy) issues raised by NMFS and USFWS so far. These were described as being addressed behind the scenes. CEQ plans to have another interagency call leading up to July. In the meantime, keep lines of communication open.

Bob P's 3 points for EPA were: 1) WQS interface/implementation considerations are very important to EPA and SWRCB, 2) Alternatives need to be refined and 3) need to keep an eye now on the underpinnings of the 404 permit that will be needed in the future. Bob re-emphasized during the call summary that these need to be addressed.

There is a Tuesday meeting with the Governor and a Tuesday Principals meeting to get into technical issues. I indicated that as a newcomer I understand that not all meetings involve all the players. Letty Belin of DOI HQ (not sure if she is with DOI or a DOI agency) may have mistaken my comment as being about me personally not being involved and said she/they would plug me in/reach out at the regional level.

Someone said the State recognizes that other actions are needed beyond the new conveyance, that this is being reflected in the State's recent messaging, and the State is talking about developing a Statewide Water Action Plan in concert with the Oct. 1 documents release. Someone mentioned a CDFW editorial today on the value of the BDCP, without endorsement of the current specifics. I also heard references made to BDCP plus and honing that.

DOI (and perhaps OMB) emphasized that no guarantees have been made to water users of specific allocations in exchange for their intended financial investment, and there should be no expectation of this. Someone mentioned State legislator Acosta's proposed legislation waiving or relaxing ESA if this year's drought conditions threaten allocations and recognition that bipartisan support of legislation like this would amplify opposition to the BDCP. There was mention of a science decision tree and the need for enough outflow for the environment. Also, that no federal financial commitments have been made.

CEQ is hosting a visit by the Bay Delta Stewardship Council on June 18 at 4 pm EDT.

OW set up a follow up call with us on June 11 8:30-9:00. Many of you got invites. We can do that in my office.